

Beyond Ancestry & Find My Past – Sue Hamer (Open Doors Glamorgan Archives) 12 Sept 2026

Talk Coverage:

Why use subscription websites?

Some free websites to take your research beyond the basics*

Using placenames in your searches

Alternative subscription websites

***Beyond the Basics:**

Birth, Marriage & Death records (inc Civil Registration (1837+), Church/Chapel records)

Census 1841–1921, 1939 Register

Ancestry trees/'hints'

DNA matches

Special interests, including military etc

Search using placenames (not surnames)

To identify different types of records

To get to know the area your ancestors lived

Practise with online catalogues before searching repository catalogues

Ancestry card catalogue – search for places, eg Glamorgan

Find My past catalogue – search for places, eg Glamorgan

FREE websites

1. www.genuki.org.uk – detailed information about places, including historic map layers

2. National Library of Wales: www.library.wales,

digital resources and online catalogue including:

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Tithe maps (created 1838-1850): map overlays including modern satellite, historic and tithe maps – linked to tithe map apportionment document showing owners and occupiers of land.

Newspapers: 1804-1919 search for placenames to discover local stories as well as other items.

Wills: pre 1858 search for parish to discover more about your ancestor's locality, even if they did not leave a Will themselves.

Know Your Place (Bristol/Gloucesters) www.maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp

Getting to know where your ancestor lived through time in the West Country. And how the landscape changed with the coming of railways etc, old names for farms, fields, streets etc.

Maps can be compared side by side from a large selection mid 18th to 20th Century.

Google search for other areas including Know Your Place Wiltshire, Devon etc.

Similar maps available for the London area.

Family Search: www.familysearch.org

Free website but you need to create an account with an email to log in.

Resources from 1980s online but talk concentrates on:

FULL TEXT SEARCH for places.

Subscription Website: The Genealogist www.thegenealogist.co.uk

1. Map Explorer search function

A wider range of collections eg census returns have been 'pinned' to modern and historic maps, where addresses are available on the census returns.

2. Lloyd George Domesday 1910 maps linked to original documents: description of house and land, rents, owners and occupiers included. Useful where properties may since have been destroyed due to bombing or clearance. Revised up to 1915 in some cases. Documents pinned to layers of maps as with other collections. At present only London area, Kent, Bedfordshire, south England as far west as Devon but not as yet Bristol/Somerset.

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